the State Governments to increase the coverage to the extent possible. These measures have been under implementation in 1986-87.

Apart from these initiatives and strengthening of existing arrangements by the State Governments, as primarily they look after school education, the Government of India is also taking some new initiatives such as 'Operation Blackboard' to make available essential facilities in all Primary Schools, strengthening and re-organisation of Non-formal education for school drop-outs, children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend wholeday schools, re-organisation and restructuring of Teacher Education and development of a Core Curriculm. All these measures together are expected to lead to a substaintial reduction in drop-out rates.

Railway Overbridges in Assam

1170. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a fresh proposal from the Government of Assam for the inclusion of ten railway over bridges in Assam in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and hardship experienced by the local people for the want of railway overbridges; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to the proposal of the Government of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) proposals for 5 road over bridges in lieu of level crossings have been initiated by the Government of Assam.

(b) and (c) The Railways can consider sanctioning these works only on receipt of firm proposals from the State Government with an undertaking to share the cost as per rules, which have not been received so far.

New Telephone Directory to the MPs. of Assam

1171. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing any newly published telephone directory of the State of Assam to the Members of Parliament from Assam; and

(b) the reasons for not up-dating all the sub-divisional telephone directories in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delhi Guwahati I.A. flight

1172. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for discontinuing the direct Delhi-Guwahati Indian Airlines flight; and

(b) whether Government propose to reintroduce Delhi-Guwahati direct flight in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Prior to 15th June, 1987, Indian Airlines were operating a non-stop B-737 service between Delhi-Guwahati in the evening hours. This flight was operating to a low seat factor. In order to improve the seat factor and also to provide an evening flight to Patna, this service has been re-scheduled, with effect from 15th June, 1987, Delhi-Patna-Guwahati and return.